

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6207
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS MOGADISCIO 0892

E.O. 11652: /A
TAGS: AMGT
SUBJ: ASSIGNMENT OF A FOREIGN SERVICE NURSE TO MOGADISCIO

1. A REVIEW OF OUR MEDICAL FACILITIES INDICATES THAT THE POST HAS LESS THAN A SATISFACTORY EMERGENCY CARE CAPABILITY, AND MINIMAL ROUTINE OR PREVENTIVE MEDICINE CAPACITY EITHER. IN THE EVENT OF A SERIOUS AFFLICTION POST WOULD BE DEPENDENT UPON FRIENDLY CONTACT WITH THE NURSE OF THE UNDP DISPENSARY, OR THE GOOD WILL OF TEMPORARY ITALIAN MEDICAL INSTRUCTORS ASSIGNED TO MOGADISCIO MEDICAL SCHOOL, EMERGENCY EVACUATION WHICH IS CONTINGENT UPON SPARSE AIR SERVICE, OR AS A LAST RESORT, THE POLICE (MEDINA) HOSPITAL WHICH OFFERS THE BEST FACILITIES IN A TOWN WHERE THE COMPETITION FOR THE ADJECTIVE BEST IN THE MEDICAL SENSE IS BY NO MEANS KEEN. WE GUESS MEDINA MIGHT SUFFICE FOR THE MOST ROUTINE EMERGENCIES, BUT NOTHING MORE.

2. THE POST EMPLOYED AN ITALIAN NURSE WITH NO ENGLISH TO MAINTAIN HEALTH ROOM AND GIVE ROUTINE SHOTS. UNFORTUNATELY SHE HAS DEPARTED ON LEAVE WITH LATEST INDICATION BEING THAT SHE MAY NOT RETURN. WE HAD PREVIOUSLY SOUGHT TO FIND A TRAINED NURSE AMONG THE DEPENDENTS OF THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY HERE, BUT THAT SEARCH HAS BEEN UNAVILING. OUR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP, OR INDEED A RELATIONSHIP AT ALL, WITH A BRITISH-TRAINED SOMALI DOCTOR
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HAS LIKEWISE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. MOREOVER, THERE HAS BEEN A SIZEABLE INCREASE IN GASTRO-INTESTINAL AND OTHER MEDICAL COMPLAINTS AMONG POST PERSONNEL IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS.

3. WITH THE ARRIVAL OF ADDITIONAL AID AND STATE STAFF OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, NOT TO MENTION THE PRESENCE OF TDY PERSONNEL, THE SIZE OF THE POST WILL MORE THAN DOUBLE.

ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION IN HAND INDICATES AVERAGE AGE AND NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS WILL ALSO INCREASE. THESE FACTORS COMPOUND OUR MEDICAL NEEDS. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES WE HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE IN HAVING AVOIDED A SERIOUS MEDICAL EMERGENCY HERE SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF THE LAST FOREIGN SERVICE NURSE MORE THAN 18 MONTHS AGO. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, BELIEVE WE CAN PRUDENTLY TRUST TO LUCK FOR FUTURE PERIODS. THE EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT RESTORE THE POSITION OF FOREIGN SERVICE NURSE TO THIS POST. (A RECENT WASHINGTON VISITOR TELLS US THERE IS A NEW CATEGORY OF EXPERIENCED FOREIGN SERVICE NURSES CALLED NURSE PRACTITIONER, PROFESSIONALS WHO CAN PERFORM SOME DOCTORAL FUNCTIONS. THIS SOUNDS IDEAL FOR MOGADISCIO NEEDS, BUT WE WOULD NOT WANT TO HOLD OUT FOR MORE SOPHISTICATED TALENT IF THERE IS A TRAINED NURSE AVAILABLE NOW.)

4. WE UNDERSTAND THE REGIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS RECOMMENDATION AND WILL FILE A SEPARATE MESSAGE OF ENDORSEMENT TO M/MED.
LOUGHRAN

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NNN

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